



COMPLYING WITH STORMWATER RUN- OFF REQUIREMENTS

Guidelines for Small Businesses

Storm drains outside your business discharge to the city's storm sewer system. Stormwater run-off carries pollutants from parking lots, sidewalks and driveways into the storm sewers, which discharge to our streams and rivers. Unlike the wastewater from toilets and sinks that flows into the sanitary sewer and to the city's treatment plants, stormwater drains into local waterways untreated.

Small businesses collectively play a large role in preventing water pollution in our community. Since our quality of life is greatly dependent upon the quality of our water supplies, prevention of water pollution through responsible stormwater management is of critical importance. Please read the following guidelines for preventing water pollution and post this flyer for your employees.

■ **Never dump anything into sewer or storm drains. Not only does it threaten our environment, it is illegal.** Dispose of engine oils, paint and paint thinners, pesticides and other chemicals and hazardous materials properly. Call the Ohio EPA Small Business Assistance Office at (614) 728-8573 for more information.

■ **Never dump kitchen grease or waste into storm sewers.** Restaurants are required by city health codes to use approved grease traps. Store grease containers away from storm drains to prevent spills directly into the storm drains. Make sure grease collection containers are emptied regularly and properly.

■ **Don't dump mopwater and other cleaning water into parking lots or storm drains.** Pour it down sinks and toilets instead, where it will flow to the city's wastewater treatment plants.

■ **Keep trash dumpster lids closed and make sure your dumpster does not leak liquids onto the ground.**

■ **Keep trash and litter around your property cleaned up.**

■ **Do not wash fleet vehicles, or commercially wash vehicles, where run-off could enter the storm sewer system.**

■ **Use fertilizers, weed killers and de-icing materials only as needed. Sweep up any residues and place in the trash - do not hose into gutters or storm drain inlets.**

■ **Clean up car fluids with an absorbent material** such as cat litter, sweep up and place in trash - do not hose into gutters or storm drain inlets.

■ **Train all employees** on proper disposal methods for wastes generated by your business.

■ **Report hazardous spills or dumping.** If an accident occurs or you notice an illegal discharge, immediately call 645-7102 for help, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Also notify the Ohio EPA at 1-800-282-9378.



City of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

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For more information, call 645-6311

